



U.S. Department of Justice

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FREEPORT MAN SENTENCED TO 30 MONTHS IN PRISON ON FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; LARRY G. TRENT, Director of the Illinois State Police; RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; JERRY WHITMORE, Chief of the Freeport Police Department; and DOMINIC IASPARRO, Acting Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

Today, United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard sentenced **ERIC WAGNER**, 33 (DOB: 6/10/1972), of 102 West Douglas, Freeport Illinois, to 30 months in federal prison, without parole, for federal gun trafficking and drug dealing charges. The court also ordered Wagner to pay a \$35,000 fine, to pay the costs of his own incarceration, and further sentenced Wagner to 30 months supervised release following his release from prison.

In pleading guilty to charges on October 20, 2005, Wagner admitted that he was familiar with an individual who was cooperating ("CI") with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Wagner knew the CI was a convicted felon. Wagner admitted in the plea agreement that on November 23, 2004, he met with the CI at Wagner Hunting and Fishing Supplies in Freeport, Illinois, where Wagner worked. Because Wagner knew the CI did not have a Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) card, Wagner filled out an ATF form illegally using the CI's wife's FOID card information. Wagner told the CI to sign the CI's wife's name on the ATF form and then sold the CI a .38 caliber revolver, along with ammunition. Wagner also pleaded guilty to selling 27.7 grams of marijuana to the CI on November 23, 2004. As part of the plea agreement, Wagner also admitted that between December 7, 2004 and April 22, 2005, he illegally sold the CI eight additional firearms and an additional 157.2 grams of marijuana.

The case was investigated by the Rockford office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives with the assistance of the Freeport Police Department, the Illinois State Police State Line Area Narcotics Team, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the Rockford Police Department, and the Rockford-Winnebago County Metro Narcotics Unit. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

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